



November 28, 2022

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Chairman, Ohio Senate Health Committee

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**RE: Testimony in support of HB 135**

Dear Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity today to share our support for Ohio HB 135 – legislation to address the use of copay accumulator adjustment policies.

Mental Health America of Ohio (MHAOhio) was founded in 1956 as an affiliate of Mental Health America, the nation’s leading community-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness and promoting the overall mental health of all Americans. We are committed to promoting mental health as a critical part of overall wellness.

Access to the full range of the most effective medications is a crucial component of successful treatment and recovery. Such medications, and their combination with other services and supports, are often essential to support people with mental health and substance use conditions to recover and thrive, leading healthy and productive lives.

Mental health treatment can be complex and studies show that medications in the same class for the treatment of mental illness are not interchangeable the way medications in other classes may be. MHAOhio opposes policies, like copay accumulators, that restrict access to key treatment. Such policies, that have the sole purpose of reducing payers’ costs, not only fail to achieve what should be their intended purpose of reducing overall healthcare costs but prolong human suffering and reduce the potential for an individual with a mental health or substance use condition to achieve full recovery.

HB 135 does not interfere with the utilization of generic medications by a health plan or PBM. The bill does not apply the accumulator program prohibition on a cost-sharing requirement on a drug for which there is a medically appropriate generic equivalent or if the patient’s prescriber determines the brand drug is medically necessary. This bill maintains continuity of care for the patient and the ability to have access to lower cost medications.

We know that a lack of access to medications has serious human as well as financial consequences. We respectfully ask for your support for HB 135 to help protect Ohioans.

Sincerely,

Associate Director, MHAOhio



[www.mhaohio.org](http://www.mhaohio.org)